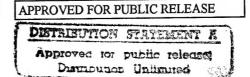AR-009-424

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Quick Start Guide to the RAAF
Command Support System Prototype

M. Carthigaser

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Quick Start Guide
to the
RAAF Command Support System Prototype

M. Carthigaser

**A Report from Task Air 93/025
"RAAF Command Support Working Group Study"**

DSTO-TR-0272

ABSTRACT

Technical Report

This Guide provides a hands-on introduction to the RAAF Command Support System Prototype—software produced as part of Task Air 93/025 to present a visual demonstration of the concepts identified in the Analysis. Its purpose is to assist users in installing and using the software in the quickest possible way, through step-by-step instructions.

The Prototype was developed to run on a PC with Microsoft Windows 3.1. Produced solely as a concept demonstrator, the Prototype exhibits the minimum functionality necessary to demonstrate the concepts we believe should be incorporated in a future RAAF Command Support System.

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Quick Start Guide
to the
RAAF Command Support System Prototype

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Guide provides a hands-on introduction to the RAAF Command Support System Prototype—software produced as part of Task Air 93/025 to present a visual demonstration of the concepts identified in the Analysis. Its purpose is to assist users in installing and using the software in the quickest possible way, through step-by-step instructions.

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Author

M. Carthigaser
Electronics and Surveillance Research Laboratory
Defence Science and Technology Organisation

Malathi Carthigaser is a Professional Officer Class 2 within the Command Support Systems Group. She has been working at DSTO since graduating from the Australian National University in 1992 with a combined degree in Science and Economics (BEc/BSc).

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Abbreviations

ATO	Air Tasking Order
ATR	Air Tasking Order Request
CDRTFG	Commander Tactical Fighter Group
COTS	Commercial Off The Shelf
CSS	Command Support System
EW	Electronic Warfare
HQ82Wing	Headquarters 82 Wing
Intel	Intelligence
INTSUM	Intelligence Summary
OPORD	Operations Order
OPSO	Operations Officer
Plans TF	Plans Tactical Fighter
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
SQN	Squadron

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1.   Introduction

A Prototype of a future RAAF Command Support System was produced as part of Task Air 93/025. The Prototype is used to present a visual demonstration of the concepts identified in the Analysis—concepts which we believe should be incorporated into a future Command Support System.

The Prototype was implemented for Microsoft Windows 3.1, using Microsoft Visual Basic 3.0 with the Microsoft Access 1.1 database engine and MicroHelp's VBTools 3.0 add-on. The Prototype produced is solely a concept demonstrator, however, whose level of functionality is sufficient only to demonstrate the concepts described.

Please note that there are two versions of the Prototype—the basic Prototype, and one tailored to specific demonstrations. This document describes how to use the demonstration version.

2.   About This Guide

This Guide provides a hands-on introduction to the RAAF Command Support System Prototype. Its purpose is to assist users to install and use the software in the quickest possible way. As an introductory document, it supplies users with instructions for only a sample of the features that are available.

For more detailed information, please refer to the following documents:

*   *Prototype Technical Documentation [1].*
*   *Prototype User Interfaces for Future RAAF Command Support Systems [2].*

This guide assumes that users are familiar with the Microsoft Windows 3.1 user interface.

3.   System Requirements

This Guide provides instructions for a single user to operate the Prototype on a stand-alone personal computer, thereby restricting the number of features that may be accessed. Additional hardware and software are required to exercise the full capabilities of the Prototype. Two connected computers with access to a common or shared drive are needed to demonstrate a shared information space.

3.1.   Hardware Requirements

The Prototype has been tested on an IBM PS2 Model 77 Personal Computer, with a 486DX2 66MHz processor, 16 MB RAM, 360 MB SCSI hard disk, 3.5" 1.44 MB floppy disk drive, running the IBM DOS 5.0 operating system and Microsoft Windows 3.1. A 1024x768 pixel (XGA) resolution graphics and a mouse is also required.

The minimum hardware requirement for running the Prototype was not determined, but the above description of the environment used for developing and demonstrating the Prototype should be sufficient for deciding other suitable hardware formats.

To demonstrate communications and the sharing of information between users, an additional computer running the Prototype software, and the use of a common or shared drive is also needed. This requirement was met during development, by connecting two machines to an Ethernet local area network with Novell Netware 4.01 and sharing files using a file server.

For further information on hardware requirements, please refer to:

Section 4: Hardware, *Prototype Technical Documentation [1]*.

3.2. Software Requirements

The RAAF CSS Prototype software is available on three 3.5" 1.44 MB floppy disks. The three disk set contains the Prototype's executable programs, databases and source code (~1.5 MB executables, ~1.5 MB source code, ~4 MB support files and ~2.8 MB dynamic link libraries).

The Prototype software is integrated with several Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products which also need to be installed. These applications are listed below:

- Microsoft Windows 3.1 Paintbrush.
- Microsoft Windows 3.1 Sound Recorder.
- Microsoft Windows 3.1 Clipboard Viewer.
- Microsoft Windows 3.1 Write.
- Microsoft Windows 3.1 NotePad.
- Microsoft Excel 4.0a.
- Microsoft PowerPoint 3.0.
- Lotus Media Manager.

For further details on the use of COTS products in the Prototype, please refer to:

Section 5.5: COTS Products, *Prototype Technical Documentation [1]*.

3.3. System Settings

The value of several system attributes affect the working of the Prototype. Before executing the Prototype software, users should ensure that their system has the date format described below, the locations of the COTS products all appear in the autoexec.bat file, the autoexec.bat file includes a line for the share.exe program with specific parameters, and that appropriate file associations have been set for each COTS product. Instructions on these appear below.

For full details of the required system settings, please refer to:

Section 6.1: System Settings, *Prototype Technical Documentation [1]*.

3.3.1. Date Formats

Set the date format for Microsoft Windows using the *International* option of the *Control Panel*, as described below. The *Control Panel* is located in the *Main* group of *Program Manager*.

- In the *Date Format* box, click the *Change* button.

- Select preferred *DMY* order.

- Short Date format: 05/03/95 (days and months with leading zeros).

- Long Date format: Sunday, 05 March, 1995.

3.3.2. Path Statement in *Autoexec.bat* File

Set the path statement in the *autoexec.bat* file to include the directories of the COTS applications listed in Section 3.2.

3.3.3. *Share.exe*

In the *autoexec.bat* file, include the line: *share.exe /L:500*.

3.3.4. File Associations

To associate particular file extensions with applications:

- Launch the Microsoft Windows File Manager.

- In the *File Menu*, select the *Associate* menu option.

- Enter the necessary file extensions and select the associated applications.

Associations required by the Prototype are listed below; file extensions are on the left and associated applications are on the right:

bmp, dib	PaintBrush (pbrush.exe)
clp	ClipBoard Viewer (clipbrd.exe)
ppt	PowerPoint Presentation (pptview.exe)
txt	NotePad (notepad.exe)
wri	Write (write.exe)
xlc	Excel Chart (excel.exe)
xls	Excel Worksheet (excel.exe)
wav	Sound Recorder (soundrec.exe)
lsm, mmm	Media Manager (medman.exe)

3.3.5. Suggested Colour Scheme

The colour scheme for Microsoft Windows is set using the *Colour* option of the *Control Panel*. The *Control Panel* is located in the *Main* group of *Program Manager*.

- Select the Microsoft Windows default colour scheme.

or

- Select the Microsoft Windows default colour scheme with an aqua blue desktop background.

4.   Installation

4.1.   Running Setup

Disk 1 of the RAAF CSS Prototype disk set contains a Setup program which greatly simplifies the installation of the software.   The Setup program expands the compressed files and copies them to the relevant directories on the destination hard disk. It also creates a new program group in the Program Manager, which contains program items for all the Prototype programs. During the installation, the Setup program also prompts users for information such as the destination directories, and which disks to insert. Custom installations are also possible—with users able to select which components are installed.

To run *Setup* from the command line of the *Program Manager*:

- Place Disk 1 in a floppy disk drive.

- From the *File* menu of the *Program Manager*, select the *Run* option.

- At the command line, type the letter of the drive containing Disk 1 followed by *:\setup.exe*—for example *a:\setup.exe*.

- Click *OK*.

When prompted, follow the instructions.

4.2.   Programs Installed

On completion of the Setup program, a *RAAF CSS Prototype* program group is created in the Program Manager.

The following program items are also created within this group:

RAAF CSS   Complete Prototype

RAAF CSS Demo   Demonstration version of the Prototype

Mapping Tool   Separate Mapping Tool

Map Tool Demo   Separate demonstration version of the Mapping Tool

Briefing Tool   Separate Briefing Tool

Brief Organiser   Separate Brief Organiser

Data Manager   This is used to manipulate the data in the Prototype's databases

RAAF CSS Setup   Setup program

All these programs are launched by double-clicking their icons.

4.3.   Files Installed

The following directories are created during installation:

- \raafcss
- \raafcss\db
- \raafcss\shared

Files are added also to the following existing directories:

- \dos
- \windows\system

For a complete list of files installed, along with their locations, refer to Annex A of the *Prototype Technical Documentation [1]*.

4.4.   Databases

The Prototype uses two databases—*raaf* and *taskinfo*—located in the *raafcss\db* directory. The database files have the extensions *.mdb* and *.ldb*. Backups of the taskinfo database files are included in the Prototype software and are located in the same directory. Backup database files have extensions *.mbk* and *.lbk*.

The backup files are used to set database tables to initial values before a demonstration is run, as the *taskinfo* database is updated during the demonstration of the Prototype.

To set the *taskinfo* database to its initial values:

1.   Delete the old version of the database—files *taskinfo.mdb* and *taskinfo.ldb*.

2.   Copy *taskinfo.mdk* to *taskinfo.mdb* and *taskinfo.lbk* to *taskinfo.ldb*.

There should now be four *taskinfo* database files:

taskinfo.mdb, taskinfo.ldb, taskinfo.mbk and *taskinfo.lbk*

Note: It is easier to use the preceding steps to initialise the *taskinfo* database than it is to use the Data Manager, as a large number of tables may be involved.

Note: Always maintain backups of the initial database files.

5. Demonstration

This introduction to the RAAF CSS Prototype is based on the A Future Day in the Life of Air Command section of the document, *An Operator's Perspective of RAAF Command Support Systems [3]*.

The following instructions are organised by the positions they relate to.

All steps should be executed in sequence.

5.1. Demonstration Setup

Initialise the *taskinfo* database by following the steps in the above section on *Databases*.

System settings are described above in the *Systems Settings* section.

It is recommended that you exit all running applications and remove any background bitmaps on the Microsoft Windows desktop before you start the Prototype demonstration.

5.2. Start Prototype

(1)   Start the RAAF CSS Prototype.

- Double-click the *RAAF CSS Prototype* program group in the Microsoft Windows Program Manager. All Prototype program items are shown.

- Double-click the *RAAF CSS Demo* icon.

The *Logon to Position* screen is displayed.

- Minimise the Microsoft Windows Program Manager.

5.3. CDRTFG, Battle Staff, Air Headquarters

View the 81 Wing Tasking Board and a related document.

(2)   Logon to the system as CDRTFG in the Battle Staff at Air Headquarters.

Use the *Logon to Position* screen.

- From the *Organisational Unit* drop down box, select *Air Headquarters*.
- From the *Functional Cell* drop down box, select *Battle Staff*.
- From the *Position* drop down box, select *CDRTFG*.
- (Optional) In the *Name* text box, enter your name.
- Click *OK*.

CDRTFG's desktop is displayed.

(3)   Display 81 Wing's Tasking Board.

- On the CDRTFG's desktop, double-click the *81 Wing Tasking Board* icon. Note: there will be some delays while the *81 Wing Tasking Board* is displayed, as the tasking board accesses the database and refreshes the mission data— the delays occur at regular intervals.

(4)   Display the OPORD for 3SQN.

- In the 3SQN training area of the tasking board, click any cell. A pop-up menu appears.

- Click the *Display OPORD* menu option.

- To remove the OPORD, click the *File* menu, and click *Exit*.

- To remove the Tasking Board, click *Close* in its control box.

5.4.   OPSO, Operations, 81 Wing

Collaborate with the OPSO at 82 Wing to schedule a new Air Tasking Order Request involving both Wings.

Initially logged on as CDRTFG, Battle Staff, Air Headquarters.

(5)   Logon to the system as the OPSO in the Operations functional cell at 81 Wing.

- Click the *Show Menu* button on the panel at the top left of the screen.

- Select the *Change* button from the panel menu.

- Click the *OK* button when presented with the confirmation message: `Are You Are You Want to Quit the Role: CDRTFG?` This will take you to the *Logon to Position* screen.

- From the *Organisational Unit* drop down box, Select *81 Wing*.

- From the *Functional Cell* drop down box, select *Operations*.

- From the *Position* drop down box, select *OPSO*.

- (Optional) In the *Name* text box, enter your name.

- Click *OK*.

The OPSO's desktop is displayed.

(6)   View the list of new Air Tasking Order Requests.

- On the OPSO's desktop, double-click the *New ATRs* icon.

(7)   Display an Air Tasking Order Request.

- In the second row of the Air Tasking Request List grid, click any cell of the Maritime Strike air tasking order request.

- Position the Air Tasking Order Request at the top left hand corner of the screen.

- To remove the Air Tasking Request List, select *Close* from its control box.

(8)   View the Tasking Board.

- Double-click the *81 Wing Tasking Board* icon at the bottom of the screen.

(9)   Locate the OPSO at 82 Wing, using the Navigation Tool.

- Double-click the *Navigation Tool* icon located at the bottom of the screen.

- From the drop down box on the left, select *Organisation Structure*.

- From the drop down box on the right, select *Positions*.

- To expand the tree, click the right-angled arm of the *Strike Reconnaissance Group* node.

- To expand the tree, click the right-angled arm of the *82 Wing* node.

- To expand the tree, click the right-angled arm of the *HQ82Wing* node.

- Select the *Operations* node. The positions within the Operations functional cell of 82 Wing appear on the right of the tool.

(10) Launch the Communications Tool.

- Click the position *OPSO*.

- Drag and drop this position onto the *Communications Tool* icon at the bottom of the screen.

The Navigation Tool will close and the Communications Tool will be launched.

(11) Send the Route and EW plans to the OPSO at 82 Wing, using the Communications Tool.

- Double-click the *81 Wing—Operations* icon at the bottom of the screen. The Operations functional cell blackboard is displayed.

- Select the *Route & EW Plan* icon.

- Drag and drop this icon onto the Mail area of the Communications Tool.

- In the Communications Tool, click the *Send* button.

- Click *OK* when presented with the confirmation message: Send Information: Route & EW Plan to OPSO 82 Wing?

- Minimise the *81 Wing—Operations* blackboard.

(12) Schedule the Air Tasking Order Request onto the tasking board.

- Select the *Schedule* menu option of the Maritime Strike air tasking order request. The Schedule form appears.

- From the *Squadron* drop down box, select *75SQN*.

- From the *Aircraft* drop down box, select *aircraft number 3*.

- On the *Schedule* form, click *OK*.

After a few seconds, the mission appears on the tasking board.

- To remove the Air Tasking Order Request, select *Close* from the control box.

- To remove the tasking board, select *Close* from the control box.

5.5. CDRTFG, Battle Staff, Air Headquarters

View the Intelligence brief to reveal any threat situations. Use the Situation Awareness Display to display current situation and to plan a response. Display a sector centred at Darwin and re-allocate some aircraft (eight F/A-18s and two B-707s) graphically.

Initially logged on as OPSO, Operations, 81 Wing.

(13) Logon to the system as CDRTFG in the Battle Staff at Air Headquarters.

- Click the *Show Menu* button on the panel at the top left of the screen.

- Select the *Change* button from the panel menu.

- Click the *OK* button when presented with the confirmation message: `Are You Are You Want to Quit the Role: OPSO?` This will take you to the *Logon to Position* screen.

- From the *Organisational Unit* drop down box, select *Air Headquarters*.

- From the *Functional Unit* drop down box, select *Battle Staff*.

- From the *Position* drop down box, select *CDRTFG*.

- (Optional) In the *Name* text box, enter your name.

- Click *OK*.

CDRTFG's desktop is displayed.

(14) View the Intelligence brief using the Briefing Tool.

- Double-click the *Air Headquarters—Battle Staff* icon at the bottom of the screen. The Battle Staff functional cell blackboard is displayed.

- Double-click the *Battle Staff Briefs* icon. The Battle Staff briefs is displayed.

- Double-click the *Intel* brief icon. The Briefing Tool is launched and displays an INTSUM as its first brief component.

- In the *Brief* menu of the Briefing Tool, select the *Show Next* option. The next brief component is displayed—the incident snapshot recorded earlier by the Mapping Tool.

- To end the brief, click the *File* menu of the Briefing Tool, and select *Quit*.

- Minimise the *Air Headquarters—Battle Staff* blackboard.

(15) View the current situation using the Situation Awareness Display.

- Double-click the SADI icon at the bottom of the screen—which launches the Mapping Tool.

- Maximise the map window.

- To zoom into the Darwin region, click the *Display* menu, and select *Zoom-In*.

Display the current disposition of assets:

- In the *Show* menu of the Mapping Tool, select the *Military Assets* option.

- In the Military Features window and check *Enemy* and *Friendly Bases*.

- In the Military Features window, check *Enemy* and *Friendly Aircraft Tracks*.

- In the Military Features window, check *Enemy* and *Friendly Ships*.

- In the Military Features window, click the *Apply* button.

- In the Military Features window, click *Close*.

(16) Setup a sector using the Situation Awareness Display.

- In the *Place* menu of the Mapping Tool, select the *Define Sector* option.

(17) Deploy eight F/A-18s and two B-707s to Darwin, using the Situation Awareness Display.

- Click right mouse button near Darwin base. A pop-up menu appears.

- Click the *Place Asset* pop-up menu option.

- From the *Place Asset* window, select the *Friendly Aircraft* symbol.

- As a label type *8 F/A-18*.

- Hit the *Enter* key.

- Click right mouse button near Darwin base. A pop-up menu appears.

- Click the *Place Asset* pop-up menu option.

- From the *Place Asset* window, select the *Friendly Aircraft* symbol.

- As a label type *2 B-707*.

- Hit the *Enter* key.

- To exit the Mapping Tool, click the *Map* menu, and select *Quit*.

5.6. Plans TF, Plans, Air Headquarters

Create a new detachment under 81 Wing thereby modifying the organisation structure. Allocate eight F/A-18s from 3SQN and two B-707s from 33SQN to the new detachment.

(18) Logon to the system as Plans TF in the Plans functional cell at Air Headquarters.

- Click the *Show Menu* button on the panel at the top left of the screen.

- Select the *Change* button from the panel menu.

- Click the *OK* button when presented with the confirmation message: `Are You Are You Want to Quit the Role: CDRTFG?` This will take you to the *Logon to Position* screen.

- From the *Organisational Unit* drop down box, select *Air Headquarters*.

- From the *Functional Cell* drop down box, select *Plans*.

- From the *Position* drop down box, select *Plans TF*.

- (Optional) In the *Name* text box, enter your name.

- Click *OK*.

PlansTF's desktop is displayed.

(19) Create a new detachment, in this case Detachment A, under 81 Wing, using the Organisation Tool.

- In the *Define* menu of the CSS main menu, select the *Organisation* menu option.

- Highlight *81 Wing* in the hierarchical list on the left hand side of the screen.

- Select the *Add new subordinate* menu option of the *Organisation Unit* menu, in the Organisation Tool. The *Enter New Organisation Unit* form appears.

- Type *Detachment A* as the name of the new organisation unit.

- Click *OK*.

Detachment A appears in the hierarchical list on the left, and in the organisation structure chart on the right of the screen, below 81 Wing.

(20) Transfer eight F/A-18s from 3SQN, 81 Wing, TFG to Detachment A, 81Wing, TFG.

- Highlight *3SQN* in the hierarchical list on the left hand side of the Organisation window.

- Select *Aircraft Allocation* menu option of the *Resources* menu, in the Organisation Tool. The *Aircraft Allocation* form will appear.

- Click any cell in the F/A-18 row of the *Aircraft Allocation* grid.

- Click the *Reallocate* button.

- Select 8 aircraft to re-allocate—use spin buttons or type the value.

- Click the *To:* text box and select *Detachment A* as the unit to which to re-allocate the aircraft by clicking *Detachment A* in hierarchical list, or by typing in the name.

- Click the *Allocate* button.

(21) Move two B-707s from 33SQN, 86Wing, ALG to Detachment A, 81Wing, TFG.

- Highlight *33SQN* in the hierarchical list on the left hand side of the Organisation window.

- Select *Aircraft Allocation* menu option of the *Resources* menu, in the Organisation Tool. The *Aircraft Allocation* form appears.

- Click any cell in the B-707 row of the *Aircraft Allocation* grid.

- Click the *Reallocate* button.

- Select 2 aircraft to re-allocate—use spin buttons or by type in the value.

- Click the *To:* text box and select *Detachment A* as the unit to which to allocate the aircraft by clicking *Detachment A* in hierarchical list, or type in the name directly.

- Click the *Allocate* button.

- To close the Organisation Tool, click the *Tool* menu, and select the *Exit* option.

5.7. OPSO, Operations, 81 Wing

Change the 81 Wing Tasking Board structure to reflect the new organisation structure.

Initially logged on as Plans TF, Plans, Air Headquarters.

(22) Logon to the system as the OPSO in the Operations functional cell at 81 Wing.

- Click the *Show Menu* button on the panel at the top left of the screen.

- Select *Change* button from the panel menu.

- Click *OK* when presented with the confirmation message: `Are You Sure You Want to Quit the Role: Plans TF?` This will take you to the *Logon to Position* screen.

- From the *Organisational Unit* drop down box, select *81 Wing*.

- From the *Functional Cell* drop down box, select *Operations*.

- From the *Position* drop down box, select *OPSO*.

- (Optional) In the *Name* text box, enter your name.

- Click *OK*.

The OPSO's desktop is displayed.

(23) Change the 81 Wing Tasking Board structure.

Display the 81 Tasking Board in *Edit* mode:

- In the *Define* menu of the CSS main menu, select the *View* menu option. The Define View Tool is displayed.

- In the *Tool* menu, select *View* in the Define View Tool.

- In the *81 Wing OPS Board* row of the *Views* grid, click any cell.

- Click *Retrieve*.

The 81 Wing Tasking Board is displayed.

- Extend the height of 81 Wing OPS board to full screen height.

Modify the rows of the boards:

- In the *Board* menu of the Define View Tool, select the *Rows* menu option, to display the row attributes.

- From the *Organisation Unit* drop down box, select *81 Wing*.

- In the *Rows* grid, highlight the *3SQN* row.

- Select the *Refresh Squadron* button. After a few seconds, the tasking board is updated.

- In the *Rows* grid, highlight the *Detachment A B-707* row.

- Select the *Add Squadrons* button. The tasking board is updated.

- In the *Rows* grid, highlight the *Detachment A F/A-18* row.

- Select the *Add Squadrons* button. The tasking board is updated.

- In the *Board* menu, select the *Save* menu option and click *OK* to save the new board structure.

- To close the *Define View Tool*, in the *Tool* menu, select the *Exit* option.

(24) View the new 81 Wing tasking board.

- Double-click the *81 Wing Tasking Board* icon at the bottom of the screen. The modified tasking board is displayed.

- To remove the tasking board, select *Close* in the control box.

5.8. Exit Prototype

(25) Exit the RAAF CSS Prototype and return to the Microsoft Windows desktop.

- From the Prototype's main menu bar, select *System*.

- From the *System* menu, select the *Quit* option.

- Click *OK* when presented with the confirmation message: `Are You Sure You Want to Quit?`

6. References

1. Harrison, G., *"Prototype Technical Documentation"*, July 1994.

2. Carthigaser, M., *"Prototype User Interfaces for Future RAAF Command Support Systems"*, Project Report, 1994.

3. Clothier, J and O'Neill, J., *"An Operator's Perspective of RAAF Command Support Systems"*, Project Report, 1994.

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Malathi Carthigaser

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19. Abstract

This Guide provides a hands-on introduction to the RAAF Command Support System Prototype-software produced as part of Task Air 93/025 to present a visual demonstration of the concepts identified in the Analysis. Its purpose is to assist users in installing and using the software in the quickest possible way, through step-by-step instructions.

The Prototype was developed to run on a PC with Microsoft Windows 3.1. Produced solely as a concept demonstrator, the Prototype exhibits the minimum functionality necessary to demonstrate the concepts we believe should be incorporated in a future RAAF Command Support System.